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HYDRANGEAS ARE BIG BUSINESS ON COAST

Because hydrangeas are one of our principal floral crops, because they do so well along the coast, and because so many people want to know what influences their color of blooms, possibly we can follow through from cuttings to blooms.

There are two types of cuttings—dormant and soft wood.

Commercially, dormant cuttings are taken around the first of the year, rooted, and kept growing on to bloom for the April and May holidays.

Soft cuttings are taken in early summer, rooted and allowed to grow into dormancy, then repotted and forced to bloom the following winter or spring.

Both cuttings should be about two and a half or three inches long and both are rooted in the same manner. While the cut end is still fresh, best dip it in some rooting hormone, and stick into the rooting medium—preferably sharp river sand which has been moistened—or soil may be chanced or a mixture of say, half and half. The cutting should be kept damp, not too warm, and out of the sun. In about four or five weeks, gently try to pull the cutting out of the medium. If it is sort of stuck, roots are formed and the cuttings should soon be potted—into a three inch pot filled with a good, rich, garden soil mixture. When they get potbound, shift them either outside or into a six or seven inch pot.

A fundamental is remembering the basic root-word of the name—"HYDRO,"—WATER. They are a plant which will do best if kept slightly soggy—more so, say, than pelargoniums. Watering should be heavy, at least up until the buds start to show color, if grown outdoors, and then can be slacked off—but not all off—if possible.

Now, about feeding the critters! Firstly, there is no such thing as a blue hydrangea; the shrubs come in a wide, fixed range from white through the pinks to a blood red. Let's say they are blue because of the acidity of the soil. While there are some varieties, notably the whites, unaffected by soil acidity, there are many others more or less finicky about their grub. These varieties are popular with florists because they can be made to produce blooms whose natural color can be shifted by manufacturing the blue pigmentation with acids so they'll come out in the maroons, lavenders, purples, and pastel tints thereof. The acids they use commercially

are mostly sulphates of various elements, all of which are good fertilizers—ferrous, magnesium, aluminum, ammonium, being more or less well known and the easiest to remember is common old Epsom salts, which is magnesium sulphate. If you have a hungry-looking hydrangea in your doorway, water in a couple of cups of Epsom salts or throw it on during a soaking rain being sure to get it well out from the plant's main stem, onto the feeder root area. This is especially desirable if you wish to emphasize its present blueness or, if in an alkali area, and the variety is susceptible, a heavy dose of the sulphates, including Epsom salts, should be started just about now as the autumn suns are setting next year's flower buds.

But, if you want to bring back your blue toward its original color spread a bucket or two of lime about its roots and likewise soak it in along with generous helpings of ordinary commercial fertilizer or just plain superphosphate. The lime may be in any form EXCEPT unslacked (such as plasterers use) so-called "Broken Limestone," is good as it should sweeten the soil for ten or fifteen years and the same may be said of ordinary poultry oyster shell—which is predominantly lime, too, and much used for sweetsoil loving plant vitals. In this part of the world it is almost impossible to dose hydrangeas with too much lime.

Claude Goldizen had a pretty good sized hydrangea, blue as all get out, at his place. Then the darn thing came out a thrilling pink! The good folks couldn't figure it out for a long time until Claude happened to remember that when they had their fireplace put in the mason swashed out and dumped his mortar right on the site. They were tickled to have the only pink hydrangeas out in their neck of the woods and were generous with cuttings. But the darn cuttings all hatched out blue, and this was before Claude and Lulu found out about the mortarboat episode so it engendered some head scratching all the way around.

A trick to growing hydrangeas—and almost any plant, as a matter of fact—is feeding 'em little and often, ditto—watering. No mother would think of stuffing her children once in a great while and then laying off feeding, and plants are like growing children much of their lives.

After your hydrangea has quit blooming, and has pretty well shed its leaves, lop off the old woody stems down to two or three node-buds above the ground. Don't cut off the new-wood shoots that have good bud tips at their ends unless there are too many skinny ones and if there are, thin them out almost to the point you're sure you have ruined the shrub. Remember you've upset the proportion of plant above ground to root system beneath. If you've fed the plant, the roots will start hauling in a lot of grub, as soon as the leaves start digestion it will have a brimming trough of vitals, your plant will get luxurious, and the blooms should make your less ambitious neighbor wonder what's happened to your hydrangeas!

Here are some variety names that may help: the fixed whites are: Engles—large umbrells and heavy, rich foliage; Regula, small-or umbrells and less cabbagey foliage. Easiest of PINKS to blue—Hamburg—and most common, hereabouts. It will grow to several feet and form a dense hedge. Strafford is a very much demanded carmine pink and Charm quite a blood red. These latter two are liable to come in any of the blue influences if not corrected with liming and, frankly, some of the tinting is not attractive, to say the least. If they have a sweet diet their gorgeousness will more than repay the effort.

LITTLE LEAGUE ENDS SEASON

The Brookings Little League, sponsored by the Elks, Rotary, and Lions Club had a successful inaugural year with a 5-1 win-loss record. The boys worked hard and deserve a lot of credit. We hope that next year's campaign will be even more successful.

Russell Beem led the hitters with a batting average of .611 trailed closely by Jerry Fox who had .600. Fox led the Little Leaguers in home runs with 4, Beem led in triples with 2, Fox in doubles with 4, and Beem and Hanscam shared the singles honors with 5 apiece. The combined batting average of the team was .301.

PLAYER	AB	H	PCT.
Borst	3	2	.667
Butler	3	2	.667
Beem	18	11	.611
Fox	20	12	.600
Way, L	2	1	.500
Whaley	2	1	.500
Highem	13	6	.462
Elmgern	8	3	.375
Hanson	19	7	.372
Kruger	9	3	.333
Lowe	13	4	.308
Way, G	14	3	.273
Berger, B	12	3	.250
Swanson	9	2	.222
Berger, N	15	3	.200
Gribble, J	15	3	.200
Arnett	11	2	.182
Vickers	15	2	.133
Lostroh	13	1	.077
Jacobson	6	0	.000
Kerr, Alan	4	0	.000
Myers	3	3	.000
Johnson	3	0	.000
Johnson	3	0	.000
Kerr, D	2	0	.000
Ransom	2	0	.000
Fitzhugh	2	0	.000
Wallen	1	0	.000
Gribble, B	1	0	.000

— by Ray Westerson

Phillip Brown, who was stationed here with the Coast Guard, during World War II, visited here last weekend. After overseas service, Phil lived here in Brookings for a time, was later with a San Francisco Bank, and is now an accountant with Standard Brands groceries. His home is in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. John Darger, and their three children, returned, Saturday from a 7,000 mile trip back to the "Old Country", the old country in this case, being Minnesota. John said it was pretty hot,

Mrs. Jack Wright, former resident, is visiting locally, from their home at Oak Ridge.

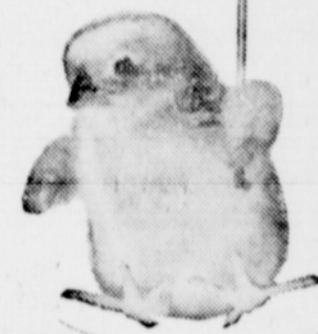
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Fadling welcomed their first grandchild, Sunday, the 11th. A son, Mitchell Edwin, weighing 7 pound, 7½ ounces was born to their daughter Joan, and her husband, Clell Frazier. Dr. Miller, assisted, at Crescent City.

daytimes, but cooled down into the middle nineties, nights.

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DOG GETS INTO TANGLE WITH PORKY

The Vic Reynolds dog, Patricia, despite her high pedigree, being a daughter of the movie star-dog Lassie, learned something about which probably her mother didn't tell her. Vic and Elsie heard her following down on the river bar, a recent evening, but didn't fret about her as she was always stirring out a coon down there. When she came home, still crying, they investigated and found her head stuck full of porcupine quill. They rushed her to the Smith River veterinary hospital where the doc had to give Patsy a dose of go to sleep medicine before he could begin to remove the stickers.

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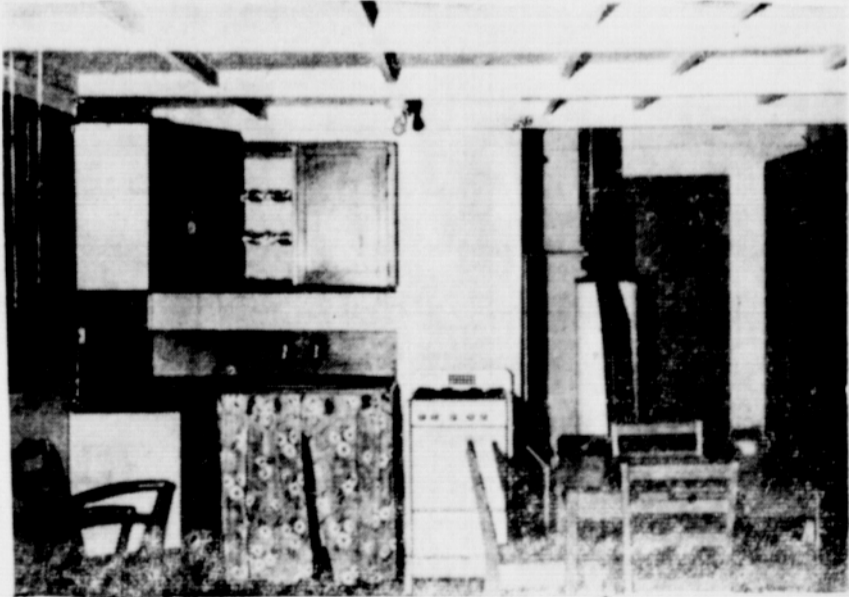
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